

# Celebrating Collaboration

*Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body*

**You can get involved in the HSCB by attending a monthly meeting or by joining a workgroup!**

**Where can YOU make a difference?**

- Transportation
- Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship
- Substance Abuse · Homelessness
  - Healthy Youth · Hunger
  - Mental Health Awareness
  - Individuals with Disabilities
- Older Adults · Young Children
  - Community Data

## *In This Issue*

### Collaboration Works!

### Stories of Hope

### Workgroup Spotlight

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## What's New in Livingston County?

### Love, INC has a new Director!

Laurie Bourbonais has been announced as the new Executive Director of Love INC of the Greater Livingston Area.

Laurie has served in a variety of roles at Love INC which includes serving as the Clearinghouse coordinator, the program Director for Transformational Ministries, and building and maintaining church partnerships through church relations. Her passion for God's people and her dedication to the Love INC mission and vision make her a perfect fit for this role.

Laurie is looking forward to participating in the Human Service Collaborative Body and finding ways to work collaboratively with many of the workgroups of the HSCB.

We are excited to welcome Laurie in her new role!



## SUCCESS STORIES SHARED

FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY



Recently, a subcommittee of the Community Needs Assessment Workgroup was created. The subcommittee wanted to acknowledge and thank the health and human service agencies in the community which have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic.

This subcommittee created a survey which was sent to the Human Service Collaborative Body and partner agencies. The survey hoped to capture the successes and yes, missteps, of the COVID-19 response efforts.

What was created was a love letter to our community. It is a recognition of the work of those with a passion to serve their community, and an appreciation for their skillful navigation of the many bumps on the road in recent months. Take a moment to recognize all of the work it took to adapt to best serve our community during the onset of the pandemic.

(Click the image to the left and the document will open)

### Time for Reflection

#### 2020 HSCB Survey Results

As we move through the initial pandemic response and work to reopen after COVID-19, we need to take a moment to reflect on the path we took. We had to adjust, adapt and persevere. Now, we need to celebrate our hard work and collaboration as a community, and as agencies and individuals.

It took all of us working collaboratively to successfully manage this journey. We must remember to thank and appreciate those who helped along the way.

We also must reflect on the lessons learned and the gaps or needs which were highlighted by this pandemic.

Here is a collaborative collection of shared successes and lessons learned from community agencies and members of the Human Services Collaborative Body (HSCB).

We need to appreciate all of the work and dedication of each organization and individual who supported all of those in need in our community during the onset of the pandemic. We still have a long way to go, but now is a time to reflect and share our successes of the past seven months.



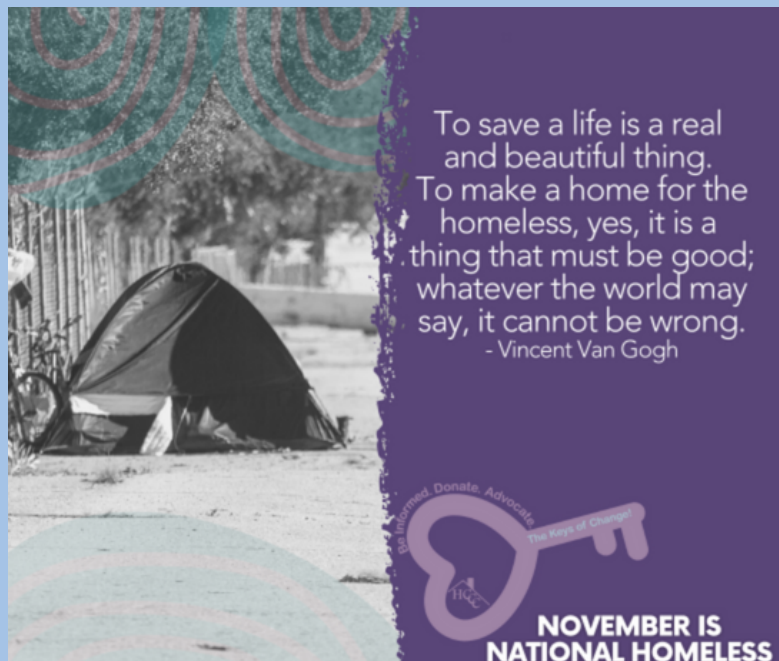
## Stories of Hope

It is easy to think that we do not have homelessness in Livingston County because it is not readily seen. However, a point-in-time study of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in January tells a different story. On average, 89 individuals experience homelessness in Livingston County.

The area median income in Livingston County is over \$80,000. This is the HIGHEST of any county in the state of Michigan. Because of this, developers are building housing to these higher income levels leaving few options for those in the \$45,000 and lower income brackets. Taking into account the pandemic and income levels dropping, we need to work on affordable housing more now, than ever.

Affordable housing, including apartments and condos, are important in order to support our local aging population, young professionals and those making under \$45k a year.

In Livingston county alone, 76 households with 117 children were homeless in 2019. Homelessness is one of our nation's most misunderstood and vexing social problems. Homelessness does not discriminate. Families with children, single adults, teenagers and older individuals of all races struggle with the devastating effects of homelessness.



In ninety days, one of Love, INC.'s client's went from incarceration to freedom, from unemployed to gainfully employed, from homeless to homeowner. His needs for lodging assistance, bedding, furniture, small appliances, and kitchen tools were met through Love INC and partner churches, faith based organizations, and local agencies. He came looking for help, but now returns to us asking how he can give back.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) continues to work diligently to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. LCHD staff is working 7 days a week to follow up with cases, conduct contact tracing, support local businesses and organizations, communicate important information, and answer any questions community members or partners might have regarding COVID-19.

All of the COVID-19 work is in addition to carrying out the “usual” public health activities such as vaccines and participating in many of the HSCB workgroups. The Health Department is a very important partner, and we wanted to share our appreciation for all of their hard work keeping our community safe and healthy!



## Workgroup Spotlight:

### Substance Use Disorder Prevention & Treatment Workgroup

LCHD collaborated with the Human Services Collaborative Body (HSCB) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) workgroup in order to accomplish goals and objectives for education and outreach related to medical marijuana as part of a grant from the Michigan Licensing and Regulation Affairs (LARA).

The SUD workgroup and LCHD worked together to determine priority topics to highlight risks, rules and legal implications. In addition, they created materials for education and outreach, such as the billboards, a brochure on marijuana use while pregnant and a fact sheet on marijuana. The group also collaborated with TalkSooner to provide postcards that address marijuana use among youth and advocate for parents to talk to their children about marijuana use. Trainings and activities were also planned under the grant, including a training (11/13) with Ken Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, on the changes in the state's complex marijuana law and trends and issues for communities.

As part of the campaign, LCHD is encouraging safe storage of marijuana products.

LCHD encourages those who would like help quitting marijuana to seek assistance from their local Community Mental Health Authority office. The Livingston County office can be reached at (517) 546-4126.

In case of accidental use or ingestion of marijuana products, call the Poison Control Center immediately at (800) 222-1222.

For more information please visit [talksooner.org](https://talksooner.org).



### Livingston County Catholic Charities Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Caregiver Support Group (Dementia Specific) 1st Tuesday & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5:00p-6:00p. Call LeAnn or Suzi to register 517-546-9910
- Foster Parent Informational Meeting for those interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent - 3rd Monday of each month 5p-7p. Call Amy at 517-545-5944 to reserve your spot
- Free Engagement Group for individuals struggling with addiction meets several times a week. Contact Jessica at 517-545-5944 or visit [www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org](https://www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org) for more information.

LCCC is also excited to announce that Gleaners has joined us this year to assist with the annual [Christmas Blessing Project](#) that serves low income and home-bound seniors. LCCC staff and volunteers have been working since August with local churches, businesses, organization and individuals to support this wonderful activity that brings help, hope and the love of community to seniors who struggle and often feel forgotten during this most joyous and blessed time of year. This project is a tremendous undertaking, last year serving over 160 seniors, and we expect the numbers to grow as COVID-19 lingers. As many of our past supporters and schools are unable to host drives for basic needs items such as food; we are truly thankful to our friends at Gleaners for partnering to provide the food items for this project. In addition to food, this project provides cleaning supplies, hygiene items and paper products such as toilet paper (the most requested item). Therefore, we would love for other individuals, businesses or organizations to **help support this project by hosting drives or visiting our Amazon Wish List: <https://a.co/ilfwRIS>**. Please contact Beth Newman at 517-545-5944 if you have questions or would like to support the Christmas Blessing Project.





## Providing Dental Care for All

Would you believe more than 2.5 million people in Michigan have Medicaid? And all of them have dental benefits? That's a lot of people! If you didn't know about your dental benefits, you aren't alone. While Medicaid is an important healthcare plan it can be confusing. You can call your case worker or My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) and together we help you understand your Medicaid dental benefits!

Unbelievably, every year, a lot of Medicaid dental benefits go unused because people don't seek care or even know they have it. Here are a few of the programs available in Michigan Medicaid that DO have dental coverage: Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan Plan, Straight Medicaid, and MiChild.

Call to schedule an appointment at MCDC located in Howell and experience the best in full-service dental care. MCDC offers services for all ages and focuses on providing personalized treatment plans that work for you and your loved ones. With modern centers and a skilled dental team, they work hard to make sure every patient can smile with confidence! Immediate appointments available. Visit [MyDental.org](http://MyDental.org) or call 877.313.6232 to register as a patient.

## What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members who work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Amy Johnston at [ajohnston@cmhliv.org](mailto:ajohnston@cmhliv.org).

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE

*Holiday Season*

# HELP LOCAL

*working families struggling with*

**FOOD | SHELTER | UTILITIES**

**Matching Money Monday!**

**Monday, December 7, 2020**

**ONE DAY ONLY! YOUR GIFT WILL BE MATCHED!\***

**HOW TO GIVE ON DECEMBER 7**

- **BY MAIL** Out of town or unable to stop by our office? Mail your check, with "Matching Money Monday" notation, to Livingston County United Way, 2980 Dorr Rd., Brighton, MI 48116.
- **PHONE:** Call 810-494-3000 • **ONLINE:** Visit [www.lcunitedway.org](http://www.lcunitedway.org)
- **TEXT:** the word **MATCH** to 50503 • **SOCIAL MEDIA:** @lcunitedway
- **IN PERSON:** Stop by the Livingston County United Way located at 2980 Dorr Rd., Brighton, between 7am-7pm



*Ensuring a system  
of support for  
members of our  
community*

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